

GR 225

UNCLASSIFIED

FM TEL AVIV 160915Z OCT 80

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 491 OF 16 OCTOBER

INFO WASHINGTON BRUSSELS LUXEMBOURG AMMAN AND CAIRO

INFO SAVING DAMASCUS BAGHDAD BEIRUT

MY TEL NO 485: IRAN/IRAQ/ISRAEL

1. IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE JERUSALEM POST TODAY, SHAMIR IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HOPED THE EC INITIATIVE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS DYING. HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION DURING HIS RECENT VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE THAT THERE WAS NOW MUCH LESS INTEREST IN THE INITIATIVE IN THE LIGHT OF THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. WHILE THE EC HEADS OF STATE HAD INCLUDED CONSIDERATION OF THE INITIATIVE, AND THE THORN MISSION, ON THE AGENDA FOR THEIR DECEMBER SUMMIT MEETING, HE WAS "NOT SO SURE THEY WILL DECIDE ANYTHING".

2. SHAMIR ADDED THAT MANY PEOPLE WERE COMING TO REALISE THE VALIDITY OF ISRAEL'S LONG-STANDING CONTENTION THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS NOT THE SOLE OR MAIN CAUSE OF INSTABILITY IN THE REGION. THE PROBLEM WAS NOT TODAY "THE BURNING ISSUE": UNDERSTANDABLY ENOUGH, THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES' CONCERNS WERE RIVITTED ON THE STATE OF THE OIL LIFELINE THROUGH THE GULF. HE HOPED THE WAR WOULD BRING HOME THE FACT THAT LONG-TERM WESTERN OVER-DEPENDENCE ON INHERENTLY UNSTABLE STATES FOR CRUCIAL OIL SUPPLIES WAS A HIGHLY DANGEROUS CONDITION.

FCO PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

ROBINSON

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

MED	MAED
NENAD	TRED
NAD	ERD
UND	ECON D
EESD	CONS D
BCD	CONS EM UNIT
WED	CABINET OFFICE
ES+SD	
RID	

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

IRAQ/IRAN  
ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE